FUNd-raising Ideas

Employee Meetings - "How to get 'em there and get 'em in the spirit."

Invite the Company/Department Leader to say a few words of endorsement for the campaign.

Provide refreshments – *bring food, they will come*.

Publicize charity speaker's names in advance.

Have employees turn in completed pledge cards (whether they donated or not) at the meeting. Draw one or several of the cards and award prizes to those employees. Make sure this is publicized in advance.

Give away gifts like balloons or key rings to attendees.

Take the meeting to the employees. Instead of meeting in a conference room, why not go right out into the work area?

Arrange to have employees share their United Way experiences with charity services or tours at the employee meetings.

Combine the United Way meeting with a regularly scheduled staff or safety meeting.

Hide a prize under one seat. Have everyone check their chair to see if they've won.

Make your own videotape showing employees charities in your area.

Publicizing Your Campaign - "Hey! It's UNITED WAY time!"

Hold the Leadership Campaign first in order to start the momentum and set the pace for your regular employee campaign.

Send messages on E-Mail or in-house computer system.

Publish articles in the employee newsletter.

Post information on company bulletin boards.

Publish a calendar of campaign events.

Hang United Way posters, banners or thermometers in heavy traffic areas.

Publicize specific charity programs that your employees' contributions support (i.e., American Red Cross - disaster services, CPR training, first aid; American Cancer Society - education and screening programs.)

Announce information on the loudspeaker.

Send emails, memos or letters from the President to all employees.

Put flyers on car windshields.

Place door hangers on office door knobs.

Decorate the elevators, stairwells, and inside of restroom stall doors.

Give out chocolate kisses or fortune cookies with United Way message.

Ask department heads to talk about the campaign at staff and safety meetings.

Have your department leader walk through the work place wearing a sandwich board advertising United Way.

Events - "From black tie to Frankenstein."

Off and Running
Many companies like to have big kick-off events, such as continental breakfasts, lunches to open their campaigns (you know, *bring food and they will come*). This is a great time for your president to give an endorsement of United Way and talk about upcoming campaign activities like employee meetings and fund-raisers.

Just Watch Out for Ants
Why not make your company picnic a United Way event? Invite United Way partners to set up booths and ask their representatives to speak to your group. Do fundraising activities throughout the day.

Mission Accomplished
Once your office has reached its campaign goal, have a finale party. Invite all employees and give a thank you presentation. Serve refreshments and have prize drawings.

A Ghoulishly Good Time
Many companies choose to tie-in their campaign with Halloween. Have a Halloween party, create a haunted house and have a pumpkin carving, pie eating or costume contest.

Boogie for Dollars
Throw a dance or even a dance-a-thon. Charge admission, entry fees, or have entrants get pledges for time danced or for number of dances.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You
Have a breakfast, lunch or dinner to thank your employees for participating in the campaign. Give out thank you tickets to people who gave a prescribed amount (i.e., one hour's pay per month). Other contributors could pay for the meal with proceeds going to United Way.

Contests - "Better odds than the football pool."

Ugly Tie or Hat Contest
Executive staff members wear their ugliest ties or hats and solicit "votes" (a vote is $1) from employees. The person with the most votes (and money in hand) at the end of the day wins the prize.

Match the Baby Face Contest

Employees bring photos of themselves as babies. Other employees buy ballots listing the photos by number and guess which baby is who. A prize goes to the employee who correctly identifies the most babies.

Look-alike Contest
Employees dress up like famous personalities such as Marilyn Monroe, Nixon or Elvis. Employees pay to vote on the best costume. The contestant receiving the most votes gets a prize.

Most Humorous Photo Contest
Employees bring humorous photos to work. Employees vote with quarters for the funniest. The winning photographer gets a prize.

Lip Sync Contest
Hold a lunch-time lip sync contest. Charge an entry fee and have the audience vote for the best act. Give a prize to the winner.

Kiss the Pig Contest
Executive staff members collect one-dollar votes all day. The executive with the fewest votes at the end of the day has to kiss a pig in front of the entire office. Or if the company goal is met, executive has to kiss the pig.

Nintendo Contest
Set up three or four video machines in a small conference room. Employees pay to play and try to best the previous players' scores. This can take place over several days with many repeat players. The winner at the end of the contest time period wins a prize.

Coloring Contest
Use United Way Logo. Have children of employees participate.

Quiz
Make up an IQ test based on UNITED WAY facts. Award prize(s) to employees with the most correct answers. This is fun, challenging way to increase knowledge about UNITED WAY.

Games
Trivial Pursuit; Win Lose or Donate; Wheel of Fortune (use questions or clues related to UNITED WAY).

Sports Events - "For all kinds of office athletes."

Golf Tournament or Putt-putt Contest
Work with a nearby golf course to get reduced rates. Charge players the regular price with proceeds going to UNITED WAY. Humorous prizes can be handed out later at a potluck dinner (i.e. shortest drive, highest score, etc.). Set up a miniature golf course within your own office, lobby or work area. Charge each player to play and award a prize to the player with the lowest score.

Aerobic-a-thon
Employees get pledges for the length of time participating. Set this up during a lunch hour or after work in the employee lunchroom.

Walk-a-thon
Employees get pledges for distances walked.

Tricycle Races

Before the race, employees pay to have sandbags or rolled pennies tied to opposing department managers' trikes. Hold the race in the lunchroom or outside or inside at the ice arena. The first one to the finish line wins a prize for the department (i.e., pizza party, ice cream party).

Tug-of-War
Have employees against executive staff or interdepartmental competition. Each team pays a fee to enter.

Slam Dunk Contest!
Charge a fee to compete and provide a prize for the winner.

Fun Run
Charge an entry fee to compete and provide a prize for the winner.

Super Hoop
Have an organized basketball tournament with employee teams. Charge admission to the game. Give away prizes at half-time. Get a local radio station to emcee.

Team Sports Competitions
Form teams between departments, divisions, branches or regions and get pledges for goals scored, baskets made, etc. Provide refreshment stands.

Ping Pong-a-thon
Charge an entry fee and have team elimination. Award winning teams with a prize.

Bowling Tournament
Get a bowling alley to reduce normal fees. Charge participants the regular price with proceeds going to United Way. Participants can get pledges for the number of pins knocked over.

Office Olympics
Set up an obstacle course in the lunchroom, several offices, several floors of offices, or outside. Time your contestants and they work thru the obstacles. One station can be for typing a couple paragraphs, another station for filing, another for photocopying, etc. (Be sure to add in a few fun stations, too, like making paper clip chains, sharpening pencils, etc.) The contestants pay an entry fee and the winner gets the prize.

Bike-a-thon
Charge an entry fee. Participants collect pledges for the number of miles they ride.

Croquet Tournament
Set up a croquet course on a nearby lawn. Charge an entry fee and provide a prize for the winner.

Tennis or Racquetball Tournaments
Charge admission and an entry fee to participants. The winner gets a prize.

Auction/Sales - "It's not art, but…"

Lunch Box Auction
Employees supply lunches to be auctioned off. Give prizes for the most creative or elegant lunches.

Executive Auction
Get the executive staff to donate half a day to United Way. Then auction each executive off to the employees. The executive must take over the employee's job for half a day.

Home-Grown Auction

Employees donate random items for auction such as cakes, cookies, monthly parking spots, a weekend at their summer cabin, or a home-cooked dinner. Services such as car detailing, a month of lawn-mowing OR snow-shoveling and wallpapering also may be auctioned.

Rummage Sales
Employees donate items to be sold in the parking lot or cafeteria.

Balloon Sales
Sell balloons. Stuff a message inside announcing a prize they've won, or a thank you for their donation to United Way.

Food - "The way to a donor's heart."
Bake sale
Pie eating contest
Candy bar or popcorn sale
Lunch-time spaghetti or chili feed
Pancake feed
Lunch-time barbecue
Octoberfest theme with sausage lunches
Ice cream social
Cheesecake sale

Other Ideas - "Almost anything goes."

Compliment-o-grams
Make up special forms and sell them to employees as an anonymous way to give a compliment to someone in the office. Compliment-o-grams must be delivered by a trustworthy employee sworn to secrecy. Charge a dollar per compliment.

Balloon-o-grams
Employees have messages tied to helium balloons delivered to designated co-workers. Charge a dollar per balloon.

Dead Flower Bouquets
This is a great Halloween idea. Get flower shops and restaurants to donate dead flowers. Employees pay to have a dead-flower bouquet with a message sent to another employee. Charge a dollar per flower message.

Penny Jar
Each department has a jar and each penny equals a point. Anything else equals its value in negative points. For example, a dime is minus 10 points. The department with the most positive points at the end of a week wins a prize.

Treasure Hunt
Sell daily clues to a mystery location where a treasure is hidden. The first employee to guess the location wins the treasure.

Cookbook Sales
Have employees donate recipes and put them together in a cookbook. Give away samples of food while selling the cookbooks.

Car Wash
Employees pay to get their cars washed in the parking lot during the workday.

Dunk Tank

Set up a dunk tank in the parking lot. Have executives take turns on the "hot seat." Charge 50 cents per try.

Soak the Boss
Employees pay 50 cents per wet sponge to throw at an executive staff member.

Pop Can Drive
See which department can raise the most by collecting pop cans.

Dress Down for UNITED WAY
Employees pay a dollar to wear casual clothes on a specific workday during the campaign. Each employee who participates gets a United Way button.

Health and Human Service Fair
Request United Way charity booths be set up in the cafeteria or parking lot. The fair is not to make money, but it's a good way to raise awareness about United Way. Make up a "passport" for each employee. Ask charities to have an inked stamp to mark passport when employees visit their booth. To motivate employees to visit the booths, award employees with stamps from each of the booths with a chance to win prizes.

Executive Shoe Shine
The company executives set up a shoeshine stand in a heavy traffic area. The executives shine employees shoes for a United Way Donation.

Themes - "From raiders to raisins."

The Big Shot
As a variation on the standard thermometer graph to monitor company progress, use a hypodermic-needle design. Great for hospital themes.

Raiders of the Lost Heart
Using a heart as a thermometer, each department represents a piece of the heart. You have met your goal when the entire heart is filled in.

UNITED WAY Cookie Caper
Each pledge card is passed out with a cookie and the slogan "United Way Cookie Caper - Help us Bring in the Dough."

Hawaiian Theme
Each person turning in a pledge card gets a plastic lei. At the end of the campaign, have a Hawaiian potluck where employees wear their leis and dress in Hawaiian shirts. Have a limbo contest. Use a palm tree as your thermometer.

1960s Theme
Dress up in '60s garb. Sell headbands, smiley face pins, tie-dyed shirts.

Wild West Theme
Employees dress in Western clothes. Use a cactus as your thermometer. Thanks for being a United Way Pard'ner!

Counting on You
Fund-raisers featuring counting. Count the eye colors in the office. Count jelly beans in a jar. Pay to enter the counting contests and the winner gets a prize. Use Count Dracula's cape as a thermometer (great around Halloween).

Shoot for the Starts

Be a star, give to United Way. Use a star as a thermometer.

Raisin' Money
Use the California Raisins as a thermometer theme. Pass out boxes of raisins to people as they turn in pledge cards.

An Hour of Power
Use a stopwatch as a thermometer. Publicize what services are provided from a one hour's pay donation.

Prizes/Incentives - "What do I win? What do I win?!"

The manager's parking space for the month of January.
The manager takes the winner to lunch.
A day off with pay. Or a week off with pay.
A leave early pass.
A sleep in pass.
A department pizza party.
United Way promo items such as shirts, caps, coats, coffee cups, pens, etc.
Company promo items such as shirts, caps, coats, coffee cups, pens, etc.
Tickets to sporting events.
Casual day.
Movie tickets.
Dinner for two.
Hotel getaways.

what matters.™